

Ref

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 327

Designation, under the Plenary Powers, of a type species
for the nominal genus *Trigonia* Bruguière, 1789, in
harmony with accustomed nomenclatorial usage



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 327

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Professor Pierre BONNET (*Université de Toulouse, France*) (9th June 1950).

Mr. Norman Denbigh RILEY (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) (9th June 1950).

Professor Tadeusz JACZEWSKI (*Department of Systematic Zoology, Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland*) (15th June 1950).

Professor Robert MERTENS (*Natur-Museum u. Forschungs-Institut Senckenberg, Frankfurt a. M., Germany*) (5th July 1950).

Professor Erich Martin HERING (*Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany*) (5th July 1950).

OPINION 327

DESIGNATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF A TYPE SPECIES FOR THE NOMINAL GENUS "TRIGONIA" BRUGUIÈRE, 1789, IN HARMONY WITH ACCUSTOMED NOMENCLATORIAL USAGE

RULING :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers, (a) all type designations or selections for the genus *Trigonia* Bruguière, 1789 (Class Pelecypoda) made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside, and *Venus sulcata* Hermann, 1781, is hereby designated as the type species of the foregoing genus, and (b) the specific name *nodulosa* Lamarck, 1801, as published in the combination *Trigonia nodulosa*, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.

(2) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Name Nos. 794 and 795 respectively :—(a) *Trigonia* Bruguière, 1789 (gender : feminine) (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers under (1)(a) above : *Venus sulcata* Hermann, 1781) ; (b) *Neotrigonia* Cossmann, 1912 (gender : feminine) (type species, by original designation : *Trigonia margaritacea* Lamarck, 1804).

(3) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Name Nos. 231 to 233 respectively :—(a) *sulcata* Hermann, 1781, as published in the combination *Venus sulcata*, as defined by its lectotype (figs. 9 and 10 (representing the same specimen) on pl. IV of Hermann, 1781), selected by Cox (1951) (specific name of type species, by designation, under the Plenary Powers under (1)(a) above, of *Trigonia* Bruguière, 1789) ; (b) *margaritacea* Lamarck, 1804, as published in the combination *Trigonia margaritacea* (specific name of type species of *Neotrigonia* Cossmann, 1912) ; (c) *aspera* Lamarck, 1819, as published in the combination *Trigonia aspera*.

(4) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 108 :—*nodulosa* Lamarck, 1801, as published in the combination *Trigonia nodulosa*, as suppressed, under the Plenary Powers, under (1)(b) above.

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 30th October 1950, Dr. L. R. Cox (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) submitted an application for the use of the Plenary Powers for the purpose of providing a valid basis for the accustomed usage of the generic name *Trigonia* Bruguière, 1789 (Class Pelecypoda). The form of this application was, as explained in paragraph 4 below, revised in certain directions in the early part of 1951. The application, so revised, was as follows :—

Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to designate a type species for the genus "Trigonia" Bruguière, 1789 (Class Pelecypoda, Order Eulamellibranchiata)

By L. R. COX, Sc.D., F.R.S.

(*Department of Geology, British Museum (Natural History), London*)

The object of the present application is to seek the assistance of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in securing, by the use of its Plenary Powers, that the type species of the important and well-known genus, *Trigonia* Bruguière, 1789 (*Ency. méth. (Vers)* 1 : xiv) shall be a clearly identifiable species of the genus universally known by that name. It is hoped that it will be possible for the International Commission to give an early decision on the present application, since that decision is urgently required in connection with the preparation of the relevant portion of the forthcoming *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology*.

2. In order to make clear the nature of the problem involved, I set out below particulars of the way in which the name *Trigonia* was

used on each of the first five occasions on which that name appeared in print :—

(1) *Original publication by Bruguière in 1789*

A short generic diagnosis was given ; no bibliographical references were given ; no nominal species was cited as belonging to the genus.

(2) *As used by Bruguière in 1797 (Ency. méth. (Vers) 2 : pls. 237, 238)*

The name *Trigonia* appeared at the head of the foregoing plates, on which were figured several species of what are now known as *Trigonia*. No names were cited for those species.

(3) *As used by Lamarck, 1799 (Mém. Soc. Hist. nat. Paris 1799 : 86)*

Lamarck gave a short diagnosis for the genus and in addition cited the following reference : “ *Trigonia* . . . Encycl. t.237. Naturforsch. 15e livraison, t. iv ”.

At the time of the publication of the foregoing paper by Lamarck, the species figured on the plate in the *Encyclop. méth.* were still unnamed, but the second of the plates cited by Lamarck belongs to a paper by Hermann (1781, “ Brief über einige Petrefacten ”, *Naturforscher* 15 : 115—134, pls. 4, 5), who was an undoubtedly binominal author, which does contain binominal names for the species figured, namely :—
(1) *Cardium tortuosum* ; (2) *Venus* oder *Donax sulcata* ;
(3) *Venus* oder *Donax tuberculata* ; (4) *Venus* oder *Donax nodosa* ; (5) *Venus* oder *Donax dubia*.

(4) *As used by Lamarck, 1801 (Syst. Anim. sans Vertèbr. : 116)*

On this occasion Lamarck gave a generic diagnosis, repeated the reference to “ Naturf. 15e livraison t.4 ”, and cited without specific diagnosis one nominal species, as follows :—“ *Trigonia nodulosa* n. Knorr. Foss. p. 11, t.17, f.8. Encyclop. t.237, f.4 ”.

(5) *As used by Lamarck, 1804 (Ann. Mus. Hist. nat. Paris 4 : 354)*

Lamarck again gave a generic diagnosis. He cited one nominal species only, the Recent *T. margaritacea* Lamarck (then named for the first time—on page 355).

3. As the name *Trigonia* Bruguière, 1789, was published prior to 1st January 1931, with a generic diagnosis, the fact that no nominal species was cited as belonging to this genus does not invalidate it. Accordingly this name is available as from Bruguière, 1789. In order to ascertain what nominal species is, under the *Règles*, the type species of *Trigonia* Bruguière, it is necessary to apply the rules laid down for determining the type species of a genus established without any nominal species cited as belonging thereto. Until 1948, the only rules dealing

with this subject were those laid down in the Commission's *Opinion 46* (1912, *Smithson. Publ.* 2060 : 104—107). At its Session held in Paris in July 1948, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, when drawing up, for submission to the International Congress of Zoology, proposals for the incorporation in the *Règles* of interpretative rulings given in previously published *Opinions*, gave special consideration to the problem dealt with in *Opinion 46*. The conclusions then reached by the Commission, which were approved by the Congress, involved both the amendment and clarification of the ruling previously given in the foregoing *Opinion*. The terms of the decision then taken have since been published in the *Official Record of the Proceedings* of the Commission at its Paris Session (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 159—160, 346). It is therefore in the light of the foregoing decisions that the type species of *Trigonia* Bruguière must be determined.

4. In the first of the decisions cited above, it was provided that “where, prior to 1st January 1931, a generic name was published for a genus established (a) with an indication, definition or description, (b) with no nominal species distinctly referred to it, the first nominal species to be subsequently so referred to it by the same or another author is to be deemed to have been an originally included species and that species automatically becomes the type species of the genus in question”. At the same time *Opinion 46* was cancelled. In the later of the decisions cited above, provision was made for the case where on the first occasion on which any nominal species was subsequently referred to such a genus, two or more such species were referred, it being then provided that in such a case all the nominal species so referred to the genus in question were to be treated as originally included species and that it was from those species alone that a subsequent author, acting under Rule (g) in Article 30, could validly select a type species for the genus.

5. Applying the foregoing decisions to the case of *Trigonia*, we see at once that the action by Bruguière in 1797 (case (2) above) in applying the name *Trigonia* to certain unnamed species figured on plates has no bearing on the present problem, for, as no names were applied to those species, Bruguière did not on that occasion “distinctly refer” any nominal species to this genus.

6. We have next to consider whether Lamarck's action in 1799 (case (3) above) has any bearing on the present problem. In this case, it will be recalled, Lamarck cited no nominal species as belonging to this genus but he did give a reference to a previously published paper in which certain nominal species were figured (by Hermann in 1781). Prior to the Paris Congress of 1948, it was held by some authors that the citation by Lamarck of Hermann's paper should be deemed to constitute the reference to the genus *Trigonia* of the nominal species figured by Hermann. Thus, in 1932 (*Amer. J. Sci.* (5) 24 : 449) Crickmay argued that the type species of this genus could be selected

only from among the nominal species which (1) conformed with Bruguière's diagnosis and (2) had already been described by 1789, and that the only such species were those described by Hermann. Crickmay thereupon selected as the type species of *Trigonia* the second of the species cited by Hermann, namely "*Venus* oder *Donax sulcata*" Hermann, 1781 (*Naturforscher* 15 : 127); in 1936 this selection was accepted, though on slightly different grounds, by Rennie (*Ann. S. Afr. Mus.* 31 : 331—332). This species is a Jurassic species of the Costatae group of the genus now known as *Trigonia*. In view, however, of the requirement laid down by the Paris Congress in 1948, that, in order to be available for selection as the type species of a genus established without nominal species, a nominal species must have been "distinctly" referred to the genus in question by the first subsequent author to place any nominal species in the genus in question, it does not appear that Lamarck's action in citing a reference to a plate by an earlier author without himself citing any nominal species can properly be held to amount to his having "distinctly referred" to *Trigonia* the species figured by Hermann. This is a question, however, on which it would be helpful if the International Commission, when dealing with the present application, would give an express ruling in a *Declaration* under the procedure prescribed by the Paris Congress (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 136—137).¹

7. If, as appears to be the case, Lamarck's action in 1799 did not amount to the "distinct" reference of any nominal species to the genus *Trigonia*, the next work to be considered is Lamarck's *Syst. Anim. sans Vertèbr.* of 1801 (case (4) above). On this occasion, Lamarck cited as belonging to this genus one nominal species—and one species only—namely the then new species *Trigonia nodulosa*. Accordingly, on the view advanced above, that species becomes the type species of *Trigonia* Bruguière, by monotypy. The interpretation of this nominal species rests exclusively upon the figures cited by Lamarck and does not depend upon the identity of any specimen preserved in the Lamarckian Collection. The reference given by Lamarck to Knorr is bibliographically incorrect, as Lamarck assigned his own numbers to Knorr's plates; the plate intended by Lamarck, when he referred to "plate 17" is apparently Knorr's plate "B.I.a". Figure 8 (the figure no. cited by Lamarck) represents a broken *Trigonia*. The species figured is, however, specifically indeterminate. The interpretation of the nominal species *Trigonia nodulosa* Lamarck, 1801, thus rests solely upon figure 4 on plate 237 of the *Encyclopédie méthodique*.

8. Unfortunately, however, it has to be noted at this point that in 1819 (*Hist. nat. Anim. sans Vertèbr.* 6 (1) : 63, 64) Lamarck identified the species figured as fig. 4 on pl. 237 of the *Encyclop. méth.* as *Trigonia aspera* Lamarck, 1819 (*loc. cit.* 6 (1) : 63) and figure 2 on the same plate as *Trigonia nodulosa* Lamarck, 1801. The same interpretations

¹ See paragraph 3 of the present *Opinion*.

were repeated by Lamarck in explanation of pl. 237 of the *Encyclop. méth.* We have therefore the difficulty of deciding whether the "f.4" cited by Lamarck in 1801 was a misprint (or slip of the pen) for "f.2" or whether in 1819 Lamarck transferred the identification from the one species to the other. It may be mentioned that a specimen in the Lamarckian Collection figured by Favre (J.) in 1914 (*Cat. illustr. Coll. Lamarck* (3) : pl. 35, figs. 253a, b) as *Trigonia nodulosa* Lamarck appears to be the species represented by fig. 2 of plate 237 rather than that represented by figure 4. This does not, however, establish the identity of the taxonomic species represented by the nominal species *Trigonia nodulosa* Lamarck, 1801, which rests solely upon the bibliographical reference then cited. Accordingly, if we reject the suggestion that Lamarck's reference in 1801 to the *Encyclop. méth.* is a misprint (a suggestion which would require a ruling from the Commission to secure definitive acceptance), it appears that the taxonomic species represented by the nominal species (*Trigonia nodulosa* Lamarck, 1801), which is the type species of the genus *Trigonia* Bruguière by monotypy, is the species usually known as *Trigonia aspera* Lamarck, 1819, to which the name *Trigonia nodulosa* should be transferred. This species is of Jurassic age and belongs to the Clavellatae group of the genus now known as *Trigonia*.

9. Reviewing the position as set out above, there are, it seems to me, strong objections to the acceptance, as the type species of *Trigonia* Bruguière, of the nominal species *Trigonia nodulosa* Lamarck, 1801. I hold this view for two reasons: (1) Crickmay's (1932) selection of *Venus sulcata* Hermann, 1781, as the type species of *Trigonia* Bruguière, though (as it appears) invalid, has been accepted by later workers, having been adopted by Rennie in 1936, by Shimer & Shrock in 1944 (*Index Fossils of N. America* : 401), and by Cox and Arkell in 1948 ("Survey of the Mollusca of the British Great Oolite Series", *Mon. pal. Soc.* : 21). The interpretation of *Venus sulcata* Hermann is not in doubt, and by the acceptance of that species as the type species of *Trigonia*, this important genus of Mesozoic fossils is clearly defined. (2) The acceptance of *Trigonia nodulosa* Lamarck as the type species of this genus would not only involve a confusing change in existing practice (including the acceptance, as the type species, of a species belonging to the Clavellatae group of the genus in place of a species belonging to the Costatae group) but would also involve the acceptance, as the type species, of a species (*Trigonia nodulosa* Lamarck) which at present is universally known by another name (*Trigonia aspera* Lamarck). In view of the importance of the genus *Trigonia* Bruguière and the confusion which, in this instance, would be involved by the strict application of the *Règles*, I consider that this is a case where it is desirable that the International Commission should use its Plenary Powers to designate *Venus sulcata* Hermann, 1781, as the type species of this genus, and, in order to avoid the confusing transfer of trivial names referred to above, also to suppress the trivial name *nodulosa* Lamarck, 1801, as published in the combination *Trigonia nodulosa*.

Further, in view of the fact that in 1804 Lamarck (case (5) in the second paragraph of the present application) applied the name *Trigonia* to a recent species (*Trigonia margaritacea* Lamarck, 1804) which has since become the type species of a separate genus, *Neotrigonia* Cossmann, 1912 (*Ann. Paléont.* 7(2) : 81), it would be desirable for the Commission to take the present opportunity to place the name *Neotrigonia* Cossmann on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* at the same time as the name *Trigonia* Bruguière, the trivial names of the type species of these genera, together with the trivial name *aspera* Lamarck, 1819, as published in the combination *Trigonia aspera*, being simultaneously placed on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* and the trivial name *nodulosa* Lamarck, 1801, as published in the combination *Trigonia nodulosa*, as proposed to be suppressed under the Plenary Powers, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*.

10. There is one final point to which attention should be given ; this is in relation to the identity of the taxonomic species represented by the nominal species *Venus sulcata* Hermann, 1781. There is just the possibility that the specimens illustrated by Hermann may have belonged to two species, and it is accordingly desirable to place the identity of this species beyond doubt by selecting a lectotype under the procedure prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology when in 1948 it revised the provisions of Article 31 of the *Règles* (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 73—76). In a paper on the classification of the family TRIGONIIDAE which will be published in the *Proceedings of the Malacological Society of London* in the course of 1950, I have therefore selected figures 9 and 10 (representing the same specimen) on Hermann's plate IV to represent the lectotype of this species². This

² Note dated 12th May 1954, by Francis Hemming, Secretary to the Commission: When I came to prepare the present *Opinion*, I wrote to Dr. Cox (the applicant in this case) for the purpose of ascertaining the date on which the paper which he had mentioned as having submitted to the Malacological Society of London had actually been published, it being necessary to establish this date in order to determine whether his selection of figures 9 and 10 (representing the same specimen) on Hermann's plate IV to represent the lectotype of *Venus sulcata* Hermann, 1781, had been published first in the *Proc. malac. Soc. London* or in volume 6 of the *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* As will be seen from the following extract from Dr. Cox's reply of 11th May 1954, the foregoing lectotype selection was first made in the *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* :—

The full reference to my paper is as follows :—Cox, L. R. "Notes on the Trigoniidae, with Outlines of a Classification of the Family." *Proc. Malac. Soc. London*, vol. 29, pp. 45—70, pls. 3, 4 ; Jan. 9th, 1952. (page 51, last two lines—"I now designate the original of Hermann's fig. 9, from Gundershofen, as lectotype of the species" [*Venus* oder *Donax sulcata* Hermann, said in the explanation of Hermann's pl. 4 to be represented by figs. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 of this plate].)

As just mentioned, the *Proc. Malac. Soc.* paper did not appear until Jan. 9th, 1952, approximately 12 months after it was read to the Society. My paper in the *Bulletin* was, therefore, published first.

specimen is from the Upper Lias of Gundershofen, Alsace. The larger specimen, said to come from Champagne, which is represented in figs. 3 and 4 of the same plate and is also referred to *Venus sulcata*, may well belong to a different species and have come from a different formation. I have selected the Gundershofen specimen in preference to that from Champagne to represent the lectotype because in the description of this species Gundershofen is the only locality mentioned and figures 9 and 10 alone are cited. As it is possible that the paper containing the foregoing lectotype selection may not be published until after the appearance of the present application in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, I ask the International Commission Zoological Nomenclature to take note of the action proposed and, when placing the trivial name *sulcata* Hermann, 1781, as published in the binominal combination *Venus sulcata*, on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, to add a note that the name so placed on the *Official List* is applicable to the species defined by the foregoing lectotype.

11. I accordingly recommend that, in addition to rendering a *Declaration* clarifying the position arising when, in the case of a genus established without any nominal species distinctly referred thereto, a subsequent author, without citing any such species, gives a bibliographical reference to an earlier publication containing the names of such species, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should :—

(1) use its Plenary Powers :—

- (a) to set aside all type designations or selections made for the genus *Trigonia* Bruguière, 1789, prior to the date of the proposed decision, and to designate *Venus sulcata* Hermann, 1781, to be the type species of that genus ;
- (b) to suppress for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy the trivial name *nodulosa* Lamarck, 1801, as published in the binominal combination *Trigonia nodulosa* ;

(2) place the under-mentioned names on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) *Trigonia* Bruguière, 1789 (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers, as proposed under (1)(a) above : *Venus sulcata* Hermann, 1781) ;
- (b) *Neotrigonia* Cossmann, 1912 (type species, by original designation : *Trigonia margaritacea* Lamarck, 1804) ;

- (3) place the under-mentioned specific trivial names on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* :—
- (a) *sulcata* Hermann, 1781, as published in the binominal combination *Venus sulcata*, as defined by its lectotype, figs. 9 and 10 (representing the same specimen) on plate IV of Hermann's *Brief über einige Petrefacten* of 1781³;
 - (b) *margaritacea* Lamarck, 1804, as published in the binominal combination *Trigonia margaritacea* ;
 - (c) *aspera* Lamarck, 1819, as published in the binominal combination *Trigonia aspera* ;
- (4) place the trivial name *nodulosa* Lamarck, 1801, as published in the binominal combination *Trigonia nodulosa*, as proposed in (1)(b) above, to be suppressed under the Plenary Powers, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology*.

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. Registration of the present application : On receipt of Dr. Cox's letter of 30th October 1950, the question of the species to be accepted as the type species of the genus *Trigonia* Bruguière, 1789, was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 499.

3. Separate submission of a request for a "Declaration" clarifying the provisions of Article 30 in relation to the type species of nominal genera established without cited nominal species : When Dr. Cox's application came to be examined in detail, it was found that it was not possible to determine what species was, under the *Règles*, the type species of the genus *Trigonia* Bruguière, 1789, without first obtaining from the Commission an interpretation of the portion of Article 30 which prescribes what species are to be accepted as the type species of nominal genera established without cited nominal species. In view of the decision

³ The paper by Hermann here referred to by Dr. Cox was published in vol. 15 of the serial publication *Der Naturforscher*, the title cited by Dr. Cox being the title of Hermann's paper as published in that serial. The following is the full reference for this specific name: *Venus sulcata* Hermann, 1781, *Der Naturforscher* 15 : 127—129, pl. IV, figs. 9, 10.

by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, that in future the Commission's *Opinions* Series was to be confined to Rulings on questions relating to individual names and to the status of individual books and that Rulings relating to the interpretation of the *Règles* are to be dealt with by the Commission only in its *Declarations* Series, it was agreed between the Secretary and Dr. Cox that the latter's application should be concerned only with the discussion of problems directly affecting the possible use of the Plenary Powers for the purposes of stabilising the usage of the name *Trigonia* Bruguière and that a separate application should be submitted to the Commission asking for a *Declaration* clarifying the meaning to be attached to the portion of Article 30 to which reference has been made above. Mr. Hemming's application on the latter subject has been reproduced in *Declaration 15*, in which the Commission gave a Ruling on the problem of interpretation submitted⁴.

4. Revision of Dr. Cox's application : The decision to separate the question of the interpretation from the problems directly concerned with the name *Trigonia* Bruguière involved a certain amount of revision in Dr. Cox's application. At the same time Dr. Cox made certain additions to his proposal for the purpose of bringing it into line with the requirements imposed by the decisions regarding the placing of names on *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* taken by the Paris Congress in 1948. The application, so revised, was submitted on 2nd February 1951.

5. Publication of the present application : The present application and Mr. Hemming's associated request for a *Declaration* clarifying Article 30 were sent to the printer in March 1951 and were published on 28th September 1951 in Part 3 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Cox, 1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 6 : 79—84 ; Hemming, *ibid.* 6 : 85—88).

6. Issue of Public Notices : Under the revised arrangements prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 50—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on

⁴ For the text of *Declaration 15*, see pp. xxv—xxxvi of the present volume.

Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 28th September 1951, both in Part 3 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which Dr. Cox's application was published) and also to the other prescribed serial publications. The publication of these Notices elicited no objection to the action proposed.

7. Support for the present application by the Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America : The publication of Dr. Cox's application elicited the following letter dated 18th February 1952 (received on 9th April 1952) from Professor G. Winston Sinclair (then of the *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A.*), Chairman of the Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America, reporting that the Joint Committee, by nine votes to two, supported the action recommended by Dr. Cox. The following is the text of Professor Sinclair's letter :—

The Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America has considered this subject, and I wish to inform you that, being polled, they voted : To support the petition (nine) :—(1) G. Winston Sinclair ; (2) R. C. Moore ; (3) A. Myra Keen ; (4) Bryan Patterson ; (5) Bobb Schaeffer ; (6) Siemon W. Muller ; (7) J. Marvin Weller ; (8) Katherine V. W. Palmer ; (9) John B. Reeside, Jr. To oppose the petition (two) :—(1) Don L. Frizzell ; (2) John W. Wells.

Mr. Patterson notes, while voting for the petition, that he would consider any extension of this decision a mistake, but that as a case of specific exception to the rules it would have his support.

III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

8. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(52)51 : On 22nd May 1952, a Voting Paper (V.P.(52)51) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against the proposal " relating to the name *Trigonia* Bruguière, 1789, as set out in Points (1) to (4) at the foot of page 83 and on page 84 of

volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*” [i.e. in paragraph 11 of the application reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

9. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 22nd August 1952.

10. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(52)51 : The state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(52)51 at the close of the Prescribed Voting Period was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following fifteen (15) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Calman ; Hering ; Dymond ; Hankó ; Bonnet ; Vokes ;
Pearson ; Bradley ; do Amaral ; Hemming ; Esaki ;
Riley ; Lemche ; Stoll ; Boschma ;

(b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned, three (3) :*

Cabrera⁵ ; Jaczewski ; Mertens.

11. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 23rd August 1952, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(52)51, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 10 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

⁵ After the close of the Prescribed Voting Period an affirmative Vote was received (on 1st September 1952) from Commissioner Cabrera.

12. On 10th May 1954 Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(52)51.

13. The following are the original references for the names placed on the *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

aspera, *Trigonia*, Lamarck, 1819, *Hist. nat. Anim. sans Vertèbr.*

6 (1) : 63

margaritacea, *Trigonia*, Lamarck, 1804, *Ann. Mus. Hist. nat.*,
Paris 4 (23) : 355

Neotrigonia Cossmann, 1912, *Ann. Paléont.* 7 (2) : 81

nodulosa, *Trigonia*, Lamarck, 1801, *Syst. Anim. sans Vertèbr.* : 117

sulcata, *Venus*, Hermann, 1781, *Naturforscher* 15 : 127—129,
pl. IV, figs. 9, 10

Trigonia Bruguière, 1789, *Ency. méth.* (Vers) 1 (1) : xiv

14. The following is the reference to the place where a lectotype was first selected for the nominal species *Venus sulcata* Hermann, 1781 :—Cox, Sept. 1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 6 : 83. In the foregoing paper Dr. Cox mentioned that he had made this lectotype selection in a paper which was about to appear in the *Proceedings of the Malacological Society of London*. It has since been ascertained from Dr. Cox that the latter paper was not published until 9th January 1952, and therefore that the lectotype selection made in his paper in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* has priority⁶.

15. The gender of the generic names *Trigonia* Bruguière, 1789, and *Neotrigonia* Cossmann, 1912, is feminine.

16. The application dealt with in the present *Opinion* was published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* prior to the establishment of the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953. It has been ascertained that an addition, or

⁶ See footnote 2.

additions to the foregoing *Official List* and/or to the corresponding *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology* will need to be made in order to complete the action which, under the General Directives given to the International Commission by the International Congress of Zoology, is required to be taken in the present case. This question is now being examined on a separate File to which the Registered Number Z.N.(G.) 75 has been allotted.

17. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

18. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

19. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Three Hundred and Twenty-Seven (327) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Tenth day of May, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Four.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING